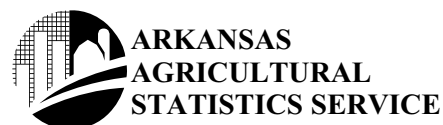


ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY



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**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS UP 2 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

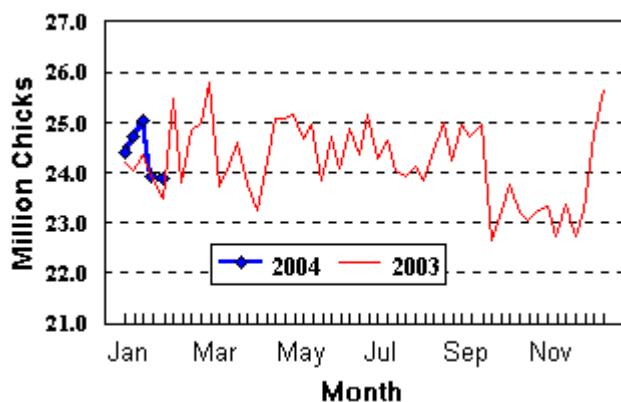
Broiler-type **chicks placed** for meat production in Arkansas was 23.9 million during the week ending January 31, 2004. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week in 2003, but down slightly from the revised previous week, and included 2.3 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through January 31, 2004 were 122.1 million, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type **chicks hatched** for the week was 25.7 million, up 2 percent from the corresponding week a year earlier, and up 1 percent from the revised previous week. Of the total hatch, 3.8 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 82.7 percent.

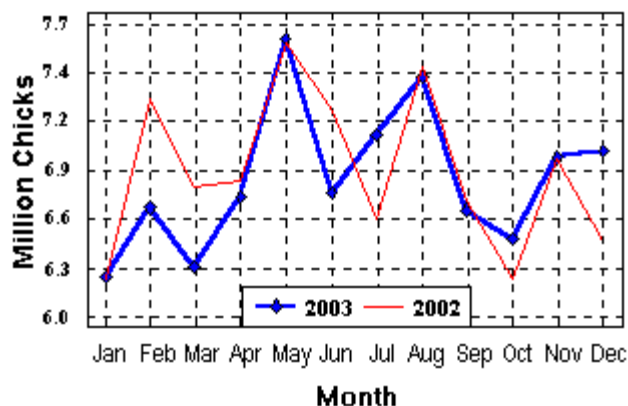
Arkansas hatcheries **set** 30.9 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending January 31, 2004, up 2 percent for the same period last year, and up 1 percent from the revised previous week.

Leading breeders in the **UNITED STATES** placed 7.0 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during December 2003, up 8 percent from December 2002.

**ARKANSAS BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS
BY WEEK, 2003- 2004**



**U.S. BROILER-TYPE PULLET CHICKS PLACED
FOR DOMESTIC HATCHERY SUPPLY FLOCKS**



NET PLACEMENTS IN ARKANSAS

Week Ending	Year		% Change
	2002-2003	2003-2004	
	1,000		
Dec. 27	23,721	25,698	108
Jan. 3	24,244	24,457	101
Jan. 10	24,081	24,747	103
Jan. 17	24,397	25,061	103
Jan. 24	23,950	23,942	100
Jan. 31	23,524	23,910	102

U.S. PULLET CHICKS PLACED

Month	Year		% Change
	2002	2003	
	1,000		
Jul.	6,602	7,071	107
Aug.	7,449	7,401	99
Sep.	6,676	6,654	100
Oct.	6,265	6,485	104
Nov.	6,938	6,946	100
Dec.	6,475	6,978	108

BROILER EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2003-2004

STATE	EGGS SET (in Thousands)					CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands)						
	Week Ending				1/ %	Week Ending						1/ %
	10-Jan	17-Jan	24-Jan	31-Jan		27-Dec	03-Jan	10-Jan	17-Jan	24-Jan	31-Jan	
Alabama	29,753 *	29,543	29,462	29,084	105	21,883	21,775	21,719	21,967	22,008	22,264	105
ARKANSAS	31,084	31,324	30,728 *	30,944	102	25,698	24,457	24,747	25,061	23,942 *	23,910	102
Delaware	3,749	3,829	3,917	3,624	100	4,230	4,201	4,224	5,447	5,397	5,367	107
Florida	1,348	1,359	1,364	1,347	85	1,703	1,736	1,609	1,637	1,561	1,603	91
Georgia	33,030 *	33,166	32,451	33,063	106	26,178	26,469	24,976	26,153	25,937	25,636	102
Kentucky	6,586	6,517 *	5,619 *	6,462	98	5,899	5,885	5,742	5,541 *	5,744 *	5,559	100
Maryland	8,842	8,868	8,680	8,810	89	6,495	6,470	6,186	4,842	4,698	5,459	87
Mississippi	19,115	19,344	18,957	19,207	102	16,463	16,528	16,012	16,632	16,314	16,391	103
N. Carolina	18,144 *	17,864	17,855 *	17,573	98	13,481	14,162	14,017	14,115	13,863 *	14,093	99
Oklahoma	6,394	6,247	6,423	5,655	84	3,879	5,505	4,995	4,471	4,648	5,250	93
Pennsylvania	3,337 *	3,667 *	3,748 *	3,501	96	2,653	2,612	2,591 *	2,626 *	2,530 *	2,527	100
S. Carolina	3,690	3,702	3,683	3,701	75	3,928	3,776	4,437	3,467	4,308	4,331	103
Texas	14,695	14,800	14,787	14,756	100	11,822	11,457	11,982	12,001	11,848	12,081	98
Virginia	6,273	6,230	6,266	6,129	94	4,896	5,386	5,088	4,798	4,779	4,751	90
CA,LA,MO,IN,WV	20,405	20,683	20,801 *	20,848	107	19,120	17,979	18,425	17,756	17,917 *	19,109	107
Total 2003-2004	206,445 *	207,143 *	204,741 *	204,704		168,328	168,398	166,750 *	166,514 *	165,494 *	168,331	
Total 2003	203,492	202,802	204,707	203,905		162,414	164,413	162,132	163,604	166,045	166,420	
%Prev. Year	101	102	100	100		104	102	103	102	100	101	
Approximate Marketing Date 2004.....						14-Feb	21-Feb	28-Feb	06-Mar	13-Mar	20-Mar	

* Revised. 1/ Current week as percent of the same week last year.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP SLIGHTLY

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 205 million eggs during the week ending January 31, 2004. This was up slightly from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED UP 1 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 168 million chicks for meat production during the week ending January 31, 2004. Placements were up 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through January 31, 2004 were 835 million, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

